

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 NIC-01 SAJ-01 DRC-01

PM-07 NSC-07 SS-20 /098 W
----- 059457

R 261128Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1844

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUDAPEST 2335

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, HU, RO

SUBJ: GOH PULLS STOPS OUT FOR ROMANIAN
NATIONAL DAY

1. THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF ROMANIAN "LIBERATION" WAS
COMMEMORATED IN BUDAPEST AUGUST 22-23 WITH HIGH LZHEL
SPEECHES, SERIALIZED ARTICLES IN PRESS ON GOR "ACHIEVE-
MENTS" AND IMPRESSIVE TURNOUT BY GOH OFFICIALS FOR
NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION. USUAL MESSAGES OF CONGRATULATION
SENT BY KADAR,
USONCZI, FOCK AND APRO TO THEIR ROMANIAN
COUNTERPARTS.

2. PRESS ARTICLES AND EDITORIALS REFERRED ONLY TO
POSITIVE ASPECTS OF BILATAALHE NGTGPL JXN STRESSED

ROMANIA'S CLOSE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC TIES TO SOCIALIST
CAMP. PRESS COVERAGE NOTEWORTHY FOR EFFUSIVENESS OF ITS
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PRAISE OF ROMANIAN ACHIEVEMENTS.

3. AT BUDAPEST MACHINE FACTORY, ROMANIANS WERE SALUTED BY POLITBURO MEMBER SANDOR GASPARD, CC SECRETARY MIKLOS OVARI, VP JANOS BORBANDI, AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DIMENY) AND LABOR (KARAKAS). ALL OF ABOVE ALSO ATTENDED NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION AT ROMANIAN EMBASSY. MAIN SPEECH BY BORBANDI UNUSUALLY WARM, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF RECENT COOLNESS IN ROMANIAN-HUNGARIAN RELATIONS.

4. LAST YEAR'S NATIONAL DAY WAS PLAYED IN LOW KEY FASHION, FACT NOTED BY ROMANIAN OFFICER IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS AT AUGUST 23 RECEPTION. HE OBSERVED THAT HUNGARY'S TREATMENT OF 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF LIBERATION OF ROMANIA WOULD MEAN THAT NEXT YEAR GOR WOULD HAVE TO UPGRADE LEVEL OF ITS ACTIVITIES FOR HUNGARIANS, FACTOR HE SEEMED TO BELIEVE PLAYED LARGE ROLE IN GOR THINKING.

5. GIVEN PRESENT STATE OF HUNGARIAN-ROMANIAN RELATIONS AND PAST HISTORY OF TWO PEOPLES, SUCH AN EXUBERANT REACTION TO ROMANIA'S CELEBRATION OF 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS LIBERATION SEEMS LITTLE OUT OF ORDER FOR GOR TO HAVE UNDERTAKEN IT ON ITS OWN INITIATIVE. EXPLANATION MAY BE THAT IT IS PART OF MOSCOW DIRECTED PLAN TO ATTRACT ROMANIA TO CONSULTATIVE MEETING TO PREPARE FOR ALL-EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS THIS FALL. WHETHER HUNGARIAN REACTION WAS ON MOSCOW'S ORDERS OR RESULT OF HSWP'S OWN DECISIONS, ONE THING IS CLEAR. POLITICALLY AWARE HUNGARIANS WILL INTERPRET GOR BEHAVIOR AS INDICATING THAT STATE OF HUNGARIAN-ROMANIAN RELATIONS IS EXACT OPPOSITE OF WHAT THEY ARE PORTRAYED, I.E. COOL BUT CORRECT, AND WILL ATTRIBUTE BORBANDI'S REMARKS AND HUNGARIAN PRESS TREATMENT AS PRODUCTS OF SOVIET REQUIREMENTS.
PEDERSEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS, CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BUDAPE02335
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740235-0580
From: BUDAPEST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740819/aaaaapur.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <01 JUL 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOH PULLS STOPS OUT FOR ROMANIAN NATIONAL DAY
TAGS: PFOR, HU, RO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005